

# Douglas Pond & Madawaska Bog

Palmyra

## Description

Douglas Pond is an impounded pond along the Sebasticook River, with large areas of cat-tail marsh around its perimeter. Despite its history of water quality problems and perhaps toxics (having received detritus from the tannery in Hartland in past years), it provides very good wading bird and waterfowl habitat. Black terns nest here and, in recent years, Douglas Pond has had the largest nesting population in the state. Least bittern, a rare bird in Maine, finds excellent nesting cover in the cat-tail marshes. Also recorded from Douglas Pond is the rare tidewater mucket (a mussel). Leopard frogs, one of Maine's rare amphibians, have been seen here as well.

Madawaska Bog, likewise hydrologically altered (and not technically a bog), also serves as black tern nesting habitat. The two populations in this area appear to buffer each other somewhat, contributing to the overall stability of the area as tern habitat.

Overall, these nutrient-enriched wetlands are productive bird habitat and undeveloped open space.

## Rare Species and Natural Communities Summary Table

| Common Name      | Latin Name               | EO Rank | Global Rank | State Rank |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|
| Black Tern (2)   | <i>Chlidonias niger</i>  |         | G4          | S2B        |
| Least Bittern    | <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> |         | G5          | S2B        |
| Tidewater Mucket | <i>Leptodea ochracea</i> |         | G4          | S2         |

## Other Resources Mapped by MDIFW

The entire lake and Madawaska Bog is mapped as wading bird and waterfowl habitat.

## Protection Status

The northeastern portion of the area encompasses the Madawaska Wildlife Management Area.

## Conservation Considerations

The most important conservation strategy is maintaining or improving the water quality within the watershed. Conservation easements, fee ownership, and tree growth and open space treatments would be additional conservation vehicles.

An adequate buffer should be retained between developed lots or timber harvest areas and the wetlands. The state minimum shoreland zoning standards restrict harvest and

clearing within 250' of wetland borders. Because different species can have different buffering requirements, better protection will be afforded to the collective wetland plants and animals when larger buffers are used. Any timber harvesting within and adjacent to the wetland should be implemented with strict adherence to state or local Shoreland Zoning guidelines and Maine Forest Service Best Management Practices.